WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of screening test compounds for the ability to prevent or treat a pathogen infection in a mammal comprising assaying said test compounds for the ability to inhibit Abl kinase activity, wherein a test compound that inhibits Abl kinase activity is a candidate agent for use in preventing or treating a pathogen infection.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein said assay is a cell-free assay.

3. The method according to claim 2 wherein said assay comprises incubating Abl and a substrate therefor in the presence and absence of test compound and determining the amount of phosphorylation of said substrate, wherein a test compound that inhibits phosphorylation of said substrate is a candidate agent for use in preventing or treating a pathogen infection.

4. The method according to claim 3 wherein said substrate is GST-Crk.

5. The method according to claim 1 wherein said assay is a cell-based assay.

6. The method according to claim 1 wherein said test compounds are assayed for the ability to inhibit Abl kinase activity indirectly.

7. A method of preventing or treating a pathogen infection comprising administering to a mammal in need of such prevention or treatment an inhibitor of Abl tyrosine kinase in an amount sufficient to effect said prevention or treatment.

8. The method according to claim 7 wherein said pathogen is a bacterial or viral pathogen.

9. The method according to claim 8 wherein said pathogen is a bacterial pathogen.

10. The method according to claim 9 wherein said bacterial pathogen is selected from the group consisting of *Shigella flexneri*, Enteropathogenic *E. coli* and Salmonella.

11. The method according to claim 8 wherein said pathogen is a viral pathogen.

12. The method according to claim 10 wherein said viral pathogen is vaccinia.

13. The method according to claim 7 wherein said method is a method of treatment.

14. The method according to claim 7 wherein said method said mammal is a human.

15. The method according to claim 7 wherein said inhibitor inhibits Abl tyrosine kinase indirectly.